

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

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R 241421Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1620

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV PGOV ET

SUBJECT: THE STUDENT SCENE

REF: ADDIS 12647 AND 12599

1. INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE MAJORITY OF SECONDARY STUDENTS ARE WILLING AT THIS JUNCTURE TO WORK IN THE COUNTRYSIDE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE AFCC'S RURAL EDUCATION CAMPAIGN. STUDENTS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN ASSURED THAT THEY WILL NOT BE SENT TO COUNTRYSIDE PRIOR TO SOME FORM OF LAND REFORM PROCLAMATION (SEPTTEL), WHICH THEY FEEL IS NECESSARY TO BREAK LOCAL LANDOWNER'S CONTROL AND INSURE THEIR ACCEPTANCE BY PEASANTS. ADDITIONALLY, EROSION OF CELU, ARMY AVIATION, ENGINEERING BATTALION AND SOME BODYGUARD SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS SEEMS TO HAVE CONVINCED THEM OF FUTILITY OF CONTINUING STONEWALL MILITARY, AND PREVAILING ATTITUDE NOW SEEMS TO BE ONE OF FATALISTIC ACCEPTANCE OF THE INEVITABLE. AMONG MOST CONVINCING ARGUMENT IN "DIRG'S" ARRAY OF CARROTS AND STICKS IS "BLACKLIST" WHICH, DEPENDING ON WHO TELLS IT, WOULD (A) PREVENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STUDENTS FROM ANY FURTHER EDUCATION OR, (B) PREVENT THEM FROM

GRADUATING, SHOULD THEY FAIL TO RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL CAMPAIGN.

2. EMBOFF CONVERSATIONS WITH STUDENTS INDICATE THAT WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WHAT ALL ELEMENTS OF FRAGMENTED STUDENT MOVEMENT WILL ULTIMATELY DO, PROBABLY SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY OF HSIU STUDENTS CURRENTLY WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN CAMPAIGN, AND RADICAL STUDENTS, WHILE STILL POSSESSING MORE THAN THEIR PROPORTIONAL SHARE OF INFLUENCE, ARE LOSING FAVOR. THERE IS EVEN TALK OF STUDENTS TURNING PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF USUAA OVER TO MILITARY. PRIMARY REASON FOR SEEMING STUDENT DISILLUSIONMENT WITH RADICAL LEADERS IS LATTER'S REJECTION ANY CONCRETE FORM OF ACTION AND RELIANCE ON EMPTY LEFTIST RHETORIC IN OPPOSITION TO "DIRG."

3. STUDENTS, HOWEVER, BEING SUBJECTED TO MANY CROSS-CURRENTS WHICH AFFECT THEIR ATTITUDE ALMOST DAY TO DAY. FOR EXAMPLE, AS REPORTED ADDIS 12465, SOME STUDENTS BELIEVE THAT ETHIOPIAN MILITARY FORCES PLANNED TO MASS ARMOR IN ADDIS ABABA PRIOR TO AN ALL OUT ASSAULT ON DISSIDENT TIGREANS AND ELF. APPEARANCE OF MANY TANKS AND APC'S IN DOWNTOWN ADDIS (SEE REFTELS) CONFIRMING TIGRE/ERITREAN STUDENT FEARS AND THEY CONTINUE TO TALK OF JOINING RAS MENGESHA AND ELF.

4. EXTENSION (EVENING) SCHOOL AT HSIU OPENED FOR CLASSES OCTOBER 21 WITHOUT INCIDENT. HOWEVER, UPON TERMINATION DAY-STUDENTS' MEETING ON CAMPUS, THEY LEFT CHANTING "HELL NO, WE WON'T GO."

5. EMBASSY HAS ALSO RECEIVED REPORTS OF CONTINUING OPPOSITION TO RURAL CAMPAIGN BY UNIVERSITY LECTURERS WHO REPORTEDLY TRYING TO ENCOURAGE STUDENT RESISTANCE FOR PERSONAL REASONS.

6. EPMG HAS REPORTEDLY BUDGETED ETH \$50 MILLION TO SUPPORT CAMPAIGN AND, ACCORDING TO AMERICAN SOURCE, PLANS TO SOLICIT ADDITIONAL ETH \$100 MILLION FROM DONOR NATIONS FOR THIS PURPOSE. RESULTS THIS EFFORT MAY HAVE IMPACT ON GOVERNMENT'S PLANNING.

7. COMMENT: WHILE IT NOW APPEARS LIKELY THAT MOST STUDENTS WILL PARTICIPATE IN CAMPAIGN "VOLUNTARILY," IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW ELITIST STUDENTS WILL RELATE TO RURAL POPULATION. THIS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF HSIU STUDENTS, MANY OF WHOM APPEAR TO RESENT WORKING WITH "STUPID SENIOR SECONDARY PEOPLE." ADDITIONALLY, THE AFCC MUST BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AWARE THAT MANY STUDENTS, IN PART BECAUSE THEY RESENT COERCION AND IN PART BECAUSE OF THEIR GENERAL LEFTIST BENT, MAY SABOTAGE OR SLANT "ETHIOPIA TIKDEM" TO SUIT THEMSELVES.  
WYMAN

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## Message Attributes

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